of North Eastern region where the funding is in the ratio of 90:10 between the Central and State Governments.

Distribution of Indian movies through pirated VCD/DVD

*108. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VCD/DVD producers are duping Government of large sums by distributing Indian movies through piracy without paying prescribed Rs. 10/- per VCD/ DVD;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure lawful distribution of Indian films through VCD/ DVD?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) In accordance with Rule 33 read with Part VI (2) of Rule 36 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 framed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, as amended from time to time, a duplicate certificate can be issued on paying a sum of Rs. 70/- (Rupees Seventy only) for a film which has undergone alteration by excision after issue of censorship certificate. Further, *vide* order dated 24th September, 2007, Central Government has granted exemption from the provisions relating to the certification of the films to the video cassettes/CD or DVD copies of films already certified for theatrical release, provided that legible copy of the certificate is inserted in the outer surface of the video cassettes/CD/DVD. Thus, every CD/DVD of the film is not required to have an original copy of the duplicate certificate issued by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Therefore, the question of causing loss to Government on account of non-payment of duplicate certificate fees (Rupees Seventy only) as a result of piracy does not arise. However, the fact of piracy does not preclude loss to Government exchequer in numerous other ways.

(c) Copyright Act, 1957 and Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 provide for protection of copyright to the legal owner of any creation. Action can be taken for any violation under the above mentioned Acts. However, the State Governments are the enforcement authorities. The steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent piracy and ensure lawful distribution of Indian films are as follows:

(i) A training module in English has been prepared and printed for senior police officers/ other Enforcement Agencies on Piracy and its effects and sent to all State Governments.

(ii) To create awareness on piracy Public Service Broadcasting Trust has produced a film, which had been shown on Doordarshan.

(iii) On the pursuance and on the recommendation of SIMCON, State Governments, have lowered entertainment tax rates consistently from peak rate of 70% to 50% over the years, which acts as a disincentive for piracy. State Governments have been advised to bring it down further.

(iv) The Cable Television Network Regulation Act has been amended in 2000 to prohibit a Cable Operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the copyright holder has not granted him a license.

(v) This Ministry has requested the Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti-piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.

(vi) Draft Optical Disc Law, to counter possible ways of piracy in the entertainment sector, prepared by FICCI on the request of this Ministry, is under examination.

(vii) In addition, this Ministry is providing all round support to Digital cinema exhibition to contain piracy.

(viii) The suggestions of the industry for amendments in the Copyright Act have been communicated to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for consideration.

(ix) On the recommendation of SIMCON, a Sub-Group comprising of representative of eight State Governments to explore possible ways of reduction of rate of entertainment tax and to contain piracy, has been constituted, which has begun deliberating the issue.

Depriving women officers from permanent commission

*109. SHRIMATI HEMA MAL1N1: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 1000, 570 and 160 women in Army, Air Force and Navy respectively;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that women officers do not get permanent commission;

(c) whether it is also a fact that though since 1990s women officers are being inducted into the Armed Forces, they are being deprived from permanent commission; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on the above?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The present strength of women officers in Army, Air Force and Navy is as under:

Army	**Air** Force	Navy
4101*	784*	252*

*Including Army Medicai Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Services.

The women officers are appointed both in Short Service and Permanent Commissions in the Medical Nursing and Dental Services. In these Services, Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are also eligible for Permanent Commission. The women officers are also appointed as SSC officers in some select branches in the three Defence Forces. However, they are not made eligible for grant of Permanent Commission in other Arms and Services. Women officers are treated at par with similarly placed male counterparts in terms of recruitment, training, tenure of service, promotion etc.

The induction of women officers in the three Services started in 1992. Appointment of women officers has been progressively extended to different Arms/Services in the three services. They are, however, not being commissioned into close combat Arms in the Army. In the Air Force, women are being inducted in all combatant streams except fighter stream. In the Navy, there have been restrictions in employing women officers to onboard ships and submarines. The issues of combat employability and grant of permanent commission are interlinked. Due to the existing combat employability restrictions, Permanent Commission to women officers could not be considered.